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<http://frist.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:

Finance
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Rules and Administration

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4205

September 30, 2004

Mr. Paul Tubiana
Post Office Box 21832
Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania 18002-1832

Dear Mr. Tubiana:

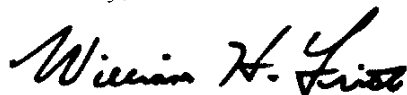
Thank you for contacting me regarding the medical litigation crisis. It is an honor to serve you as Majority Leader of the United States Senate and a privilege to respond to your concerns.

Skyrocketing medical malpractice premiums cannot continue to stifle health care access. Already, the American Medical Association reports that 20 states are in crisis and another 25, including Tennessee, are approaching a crisis situation. High costs are forcing physicians to stop performing high risk procedures, to drop vital services, or to leave their practices altogether. In the end, it is the patients who suffer.

As you may know, we have been unsuccessful in overcoming opposition to several pieces of legislation: S. 11, the Patients First Act of 2003, S. 2061, the Healthy Mothers and Healthy Babies Access to Care Act of 2003, and S. 2207, the Pregnancy and Trauma Care Access Protection Act. While we were unable to muster the 60-vote supermajority needed to overcome a Democratic-led filibuster and pass these bills, we continue to work on legislation that will repair our broken litigation system and provide for fair and equitable compensation for those negligently injured while ensuring access to quality health care. As Majority Leader, I am committed to passing legislation to begin addressing this national crisis.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this important issue and I hope you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me throughout my tenure in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,



William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate

P.S. Please visit <http://frist.senate.gov> to register for my e-mail newsletter.